

General Guidance on Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations Requests
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

For fiscal year 2026, the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations (the Committee) will accept two types of appropriations requests.

1. Programmatic/Language Requests: These requests are (1) general funding requests for national and regional programs and/or (2) bill and report language requests that direct, encourage, or urge an agency or department to carry out an action. Senators may submit individual or group programmatic and language requests for fiscal year 2026.
2. Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Requests: According to [Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate](#), a CDS is a provision:

included primarily at the request of a Senator providing, authorizing, or recommending a specific amount of discretionary budget authority, credit authority, or other spending authority for a contract, loan, loan guarantee, grant, loan authority, or other expenditure with or to an entity, or targeted to a specific State, locality or Congressional district, other than through a statutory or administrative formula-driven or competitive award process.

Senators may only submit individual CDS requests for fiscal year 2026.

Generally speaking, CDS is funding requested for a specific project in a specific location. All requests for CDS items must comply with the requirements of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, which governs CDS. This includes requiring Senators who submit CDS request to certify that neither they nor their immediate family members have any financial interest in the CDS item(s) being requested.

The Committee will continue the following reforms for CDS requests that were instituted in the 117th Congress to promote greater transparency and accountability:

- Funding for CDS items shall not exceed one percent of discretionary spending.
- For-profit entities are ineligible for CDS items, and Senators must certify that none of the entities for which they have requested CDS are a for-profit entity.
- Each Senator is required to publish his or her CDS requests on his or her website and make public the previously mentioned financial certification letter for the duration of the fiscal year 2026 appropriations cycle. The Committee will provide a link to each requesting Senator's financial certification letter and disclosure on the Committee's website.
- The Committee will require the Government Accountability Office to audit a sample of enacted CDS items and report its findings to Congress.

Submission Deadlines

Deadlines for submitting requests for the fiscal year 2026 appropriations cycle, including programmatic, bill/report language, and CDS requests, are listed below.

Subcommittee	CDS Requests	Programmatic Requests
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Related Agencies	May 9, 2025	May 22, 2025
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies	May 13, 2025	May 22, 2025
Defense (<i>not accepting CDS requests</i>)	N/A	June 4, 2025
Energy and Water Development	May 23, 2025	May 23, 2025
Financial Services and General Government	May 21, 2025	May 21, 2025
Homeland Security	May 14, 2025	May 22, 2025
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies	May 21, 2025	May 21, 2025
Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education, and Related Agencies	May 16, 2025	May 23, 2025
Legislative Branch (<i>not accepting CDS requests</i>)	N/A	May 6, 2025
Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies	June 4, 2025	June 4, 2025
State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (<i>not accepting CDS requests</i>)	N/A	May 22, 2025
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and Related Agencies	May 15, 2025	May 23, 2025

Congressionally Directed Spending – Eligible Agencies and Accounts

In the fiscal year 2026 appropriations cycle, Senators may submit requests for CDS items in the appropriations bills and accounts listed below. Additionally, for fiscal year 2026, the Committee has instituted a maximum number of CDS requests a Senator may submit to certain subcommittees and/or accounts. These maximum request limits are noted below.

Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies – 25 requests per Senator

- Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities
- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Salaries and Expenses
- Natural Resources Conservation Service, Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations
- National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Research and Facilities Act Program
- Rural Development, Community Facilities Grants
- Rural Development, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies – 35 requests per Senator

- Department of Commerce (DOC), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Scientific and Technical Research and Services, NIST External Projects
- DOC, NIST, Construction of Research Facilities, NIST Extramural Construction

- DOC, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Operations, Research, and Facilities, NOAA Special Projects
- Department of Justice (DOJ), State and Local Law Enforcement Activities, Office of Justice Programs, State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance, Byrne Discretionary Grants
- DOJ, State and Local Law Enforcement Activities, Community Oriented Policing Services Programs (COPS), COPS Law Enforcement Technology and Equipment
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Safety, Security and Mission Support

Energy and Water Development

- Corps of Engineers, Investigations
- Corps of Engineers, Construction
- Corps of Engineers, Operation & Maintenance
- Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Rivers & Tributaries, Investigations
- Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Rivers & Tributaries, Construction
- Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Rivers & Tributaries, Operation & Maintenance
- Bureau of Reclamation, Water and Related Resources
- Department of Energy, “Energy Projects” – *8 requests per Senator*
Account will include the following topic areas:
 - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
 - Electricity
 - Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response
 - Nuclear Energy
 - Fossil Energy and Carbon Management

Financial Services and General Government – 15 requests per Senator

- Small Business Administration, Administrative Provision
- National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), National Historical Publications and Records Commission
- NARA, Repairs and Restoration
- General Services Administration (GSA), Federal Buildings Fund, Construction and Acquisition
- GSA, Federal Buildings Fund, Repairs and Alterations, Major Repairs
- GSA, Federal Buildings Fund, Repairs and Alterations, Basic Repairs
- Office of National Drug Control Policy, Administrative Provision (Prevention Grants)

Homeland Security – 10 requests per Senator

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Pre-Disaster Mitigation Projects
- FEMA, Emergency Operations Center Grant Program

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies – 40 requests per Senator

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), State and Tribal Assistance Grants, Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
- Indian Health Service, Sanitation Facilities Construction
- National Park Service (NPS), Historic Preservation Fund Projects

- U.S. Forest Service (USFS), State and Private Forestry, Forest Resource Information and Analysis
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
 - Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Land Acquisition
 - Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Land Acquisition
 - NPS, Land Acquisition
 - USFS, Land Acquisition
 - USFS, Forest Legacy
- Land Management Agencies, Construction
 - BLM, Construction
 - FWS, Construction Projects, Line Item Construction
 - NPS, Construction, Line Item Construction and Maintenance
 - USFS, Capital Improvement and Maintenance, Facilities, Road and Trails
- Land Management Agencies, Local Projects and Research
 - BLM, Management of Land and Resources, Land Management Priorities
 - NPS, National Recreation and Preservation, Statutory and Contractual Aid
 - FWS, Resource Management, Stewardship Priorities
 - U.S. Geological Survey, Surveys Investigations and Research, Special Initiatives
- Bureau of Indian Affairs, Operation of Indian Programs, Special Initiatives
- EPA, Science and Technology, Research: National Priorities
- EPA, State and Tribal Assistance Grants, STAG Infrastructure Grants

Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies – 80 requests per Senator

- Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Training and Employment Services
- HHS, Health Resources and Services Administration, Program Management
- HHS, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Health Surveillance and Program Support– 8 requests per Senator
- HHS, Administration for Children and Families, Children and Families Services Programs
- HHS, Administration for Community Living, Aging and Disability Services Programs
- Department of Education, Innovation and Improvement, Fund for the Improvement of Education
- Department of Education, Higher Education, Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

- Military Construction, Army
- Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps
- Military Construction, Air Force (including Space Force)
- Military Construction, Defense-Wide
- Military Construction, Army National Guard
- Military Construction, Air National Guard
- Military Construction, Army Reserve
- Military Construction, Navy Reserve
- Military Construction, Air Force Reserve

Transportation, HUD, and Related Agencies – 80 requests per Senator

- Department of Transportation (DOT), Office of the Secretary, Transportation Planning, Research, and Development
- DOT, Federal Aviation Administration, Grants-in-Aid for Airports
- DOT, Federal Highway Administration, Highway Infrastructure Programs
- DOT, Federal Transit Administration, Transit Infrastructure Grants
- DOT, Federal Railroad Administration, Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program
- DOT, Maritime Administration, Port Infrastructure Development Program Grants
- HUD, Community Development Fund, Economic Development Initiatives